

Hezekiah Perkins House
185 Broadway
Norwich
New London County
Connecticut

HABS No. CONN-262

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HEZEKIAH PERKINS HOUSE

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Address: 185 Broadway, Norwich, New London County,
Connecticut.

Present Owner
and Occupant: Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Kennedy, 185 Broadway,
Norwich, Connecticut

Present Use: Residence.

Brief Statement
of Significance: This is an example of the frame houses built in
Norwich about the end of the eighteenth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: The house was originally owned by Hezekiah Perkins who lived 1751-1822. Hezekiah Perkins gave the land to the town for the park in front of the house. Before the present owners bought the house about 1960, it was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Coit.
2. Date of erection: About the end of the eighteenth century.
3. Builder: The house is very similar to the DeWitt House-Lydia Huntley Sigourney School neighboring on the north-west and was probably built by the same builder.
4. Notes on alterations and additions: The house has been remodeled during the past year by the present owners.
5. Sources of information: Interview with Mrs. Albert H. Chase, 1 Sachem Terrace, Norwich, Connecticut, October 28, 1960.
Mary E. Perkins, Old Houses of the Antient Town of Norwich, 1660-1800 (Norwich, Connecticut: 1895), p.161.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: This is a medium sized, two-story frame house, built about the end of the eighteenth century, and typical of the period and area.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: The house is two stories high, L-shaped

with a five bay front block and a rear wing. There is a one-story lean-to and a porch at the rear of the house within the angle of the L-shape. The house faces north-west.

2. Foundations: Rough cut stone.
3. Wall Construction: Timber frame with clapboards and beaded corner boards.
4. Porches, stoops: There is a small, one-story entrance porch on the front, three steps high, with a pedimented gable roof with a denticulated cornice, supported by two square wooden posts. The rear porch is one story high with a nearly flat roof and simple cornice, supported on square wood columns.
5. Chimneys: Three brick chimneys in the main block.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The front entrance has a four panel wood door with a semi-circular top light. The entrance is fitted with shutters with adjustable louvers which the present owners remove during the winter. The entrance is in the center bay of the house which is stepped slightly forward from the face of the wall. This center bay is carried up to a low pitched gable, with a segmental fan light in the pediment.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Double hung wood windows with six light sash over six light. Wood shutters with adjustable louvers.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Hip roof on front block, gable roof on the rear wing, metal roof with standing seams.
 - b. Eaves: Boxed molded eaves.
 - c. Dormers: One dormer on the rear of the main block.

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C. Technical Description of Interior: The house has a central hall type plan, but the interiors were not inspected.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: The house is situated on an open, level, city lot.
2. Landscaping: Informal landscaping with large trees, shrubs, and lawn.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect
National Park Service
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